

CAMP REYNOLDS, OFFICER'S QUARTERS
(Building No. 46)
Angel Island State Park
Angel Island
Marin County
California

HABS CA-1841-C
CA-1841-C

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAMP REYNOLDS, OFFICER'S QUARTERS (Fort McDowell - West Garrison, Building No. 46)

HABS No. CA-1841-C

Location: Angel Island, Marin County, California

Present Owner: State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

Present Occupant: Angel Island State Park

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Camp Reynolds was established on Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. In 1866 Camp Reynolds became the army's general depot for receiving and distributing new recruits in the West. From the 1860s through the 1880s a village of wood frame buildings including officers' quarters, barracks, and various support structures was constructed and expanded. Now part of Angel Island State Park, Camp Reynolds features a remarkable collection of surviving late-nineteenth-century officers' quarters.

This officer's quarters dates to the 1870s expansion of Camp Reynolds. It is representative of four identical structures built along officers' row on the south side of the parade grounds. Although always occupied as an army structure, this building also reflects civilian domestic architecture of the second half of the nineteenth century in its tall front gable form, porches, and detailing. Changes to the structure indicate continual adaptation for use by army personnel. As single family "cottages," these four quarters originally housed the post surgeon and three captains, relatively high ranking officers. Construction of more modern officers' quarters at the East Garrison in the mid-1910s and years of hard use reduced the status of this structure to quarters for non-commissioned officers in 1931.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1874
2. Architect: Not known
3. Original owner: U. S. Army, 1874-1948
Subsequent owners: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1948-63
California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1963 - present
4. Builder: constructed and altered by soldiers stationed at Camp Reynolds/Fort McDowell
5. Original plans and construction:
Building No. 46 largely retains its original exterior form of an one-and-a-half-story front gable with an one-story kitchen ell at the rear. The earliest description of these single-family quarters is from 1877 and specifies eight rooms, including attics, in each.¹ A January 1877 site plan indicates a rectangular foot print with an ell, side porch, and small extension on the back half of the structure. Photographs from the 1880s illustrate the rear ell, side rear porch, and rear extension.²
6. Alterations and additions:³
A number of small interior changes were done to these quarters during the 1880s. In 1881 Acting Assistant Quartermaster Baily reported that the "first cottage" received a new doorway "leading from pantry to rear porch, bathroom enlarged, and servants' room ten feet by ten feet added."⁴ The 1885 Inspection of Buildings describes these quarters as a seven-room single dwelling with a main section twenty-three by thirty-two feet, ell

¹National Archives and Records Administration (hereafter NARA), Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, MD, RG 77, Real Estate Division, Drawing #1 with 1877 printed description attached.

² Camp Reynolds site plan, January 1877, NARA, Cartographic, RG 77, Fortification File, drawer 154, sheet 44-8; Copy of California Historical Society photograph 231-1-400 in Angel Island State Park files; NARA, Still Picture Branch, College Park, MD, Photograph 111-SC-92853. An 1879 inspection report describes these quarters as 23 by 32 feet with an ell 15 by 17 feet, six rooms each (Inspection Report to Quartermaster General (30 June 1879), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 4). Omitting the attic, or second floor spaces from the room count was a common technique to evade army regulations regarding the number of rooms allotted to each rank. On evading room count regulations see Lieut. Colonel Thomas M. Anderson. "Army Posts, Barracks and Quarters," *Journal of the Military Service Institution of the United States* 2:8 (1882): 435.

³Discussion of changing partition walls inside Building No. 47 (and by extension Building No. 46) appears in a report by Robert Wood. Without access to a legible copy of the 1889 site plan he relies upon, his argument is unconvincing. Robert M. Wood. "Preliminary Recommendation for the Interior Restoration of the Buildings Remaining on West Garrison," typescript (March 1984), Angel Island State Park files, 32-33.

⁴Report, Office Acting Assistant Quartermaster, Angel Island, CA to Chief Quartermaster, Military Division of the Pacific, Presidio, San Francisco, CA (31 March 1881), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 36, Folder 1.

fifteen by seventeen feet, a "front piazza" six by twenty-three feet, hall, stairway, and detached servants' room. Changes the previous year consisted of adding a "[water] closet with fixtures to new bathroom upstairs and new metallic sink to kitchen."⁵ It is not clear whether the bathroom was added to an existing small room at the top of the stair, or whether a partition was added to create this space at this time.

An 1893 first floor plan sketched for a Surgeon General's report illustrates the configuration of Building No. 46 during the 1890s (Figure 1). The main section of the structure contained the side entrance hall, parlor and dining room while the ell included a closet/hall (pantry), kitchen, bath and water closet. This evidence seems to indicate that during this period these quarters had both an upstairs bathroom and a more rudimentary water closet and bath in an extension of the rear ell. Another c. 1929 set of plans for this structure show the same hall, parlor and dining room arrangement in the main section first floor with a pantry and kitchen in the ell. The rear water closet extension was no longer extant and a six by seven foot portion of the ell side porch was enclosed and being used as a bedroom. The attic floor had a stair hall, bathroom, two bedrooms and a small "sewing room" at the northeast corner. The current configuration of Building No. 46 matches these plans except the front steps and ell side porch have been removed.⁶

B. Historical Context:

Camp Reynolds was established on the west side of Angel Island in 1863 to enhance the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay during the Civil War. With the reorganization of the army at the end of the Civil War, the future of Camp Reynolds was initially in doubt. Angel Island maintained some coastal defense duties, but then in 1866 its primary purpose became processing recruits assigned to the Western plains forts. Military historian Edward Coffman describes the role of frontier constabulary as the primary mission of the late-nineteenth-century peacetime army. In 1870, 23,000 men or sixty-two percent of the regular army was assigned to the West, including the Pacific coast posts.⁷

From the 1860s through the 1880s a village of wood frame buildings including officers' quarters, barracks, and various support structures was constructed and expanded at Camp Reynolds. Continual requests for repairs and new buildings were punctuated by a flurry

⁵Report of the Annual Inspection of Public Buildings at Angel Island, CA (31 March 1885), NARA, RG 92, Entry 225, Box 37.

⁶Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893), NARA, RG 112, Entry 41, Box 2; Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort McDowell, Angel Island, Building No. 46, (includes c. 1929 plan) NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4.

⁷Edward M. Coffman. *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986), 254. Coffman's study is an excellent source regarding life at late-nineteenth-century army posts.

of new construction in 1874-76, including four single officer's quarters, two barracks, a chapel, non-commissioned officers' quarters, a headquarters building, and a new wing for the hospital.⁸ The 1870s expansion was necessitated by enlargement of the post to four permanent companies. This officer's quarters is representative example of the four identical single officers' quarters built on the south side of the parade ground during 1874.

Officers' row cultivated the appearance of middle-class housing in a village or small town, in contrast to the more utilitarian housing provided for enlisted men. Like officers' quarters at other military posts, these "cottage" officers' quarters echoed civilian domestic architecture of the period in their tall front gable form, numerous porches, and plain but fashionable detailing. As single family dwellings, these four quarters originally housed the post surgeon and three captains, relatively high-ranking officers. A mix of single and multi-family houses was a common technique used to serve military hierarchy and give a civilian appearance to the officers' quarters. In 1907, a captain and his family occupied what was then known as Building No. 4.⁹

As the Indian conflicts waned in the 1890s, there was little additional investment at Camp Reynolds, or other U.S. army posts. The start of the Spanish-American War in 1898 swiftly changed the perceived importance of the Army and the future of Camp Reynolds. In 1899 the Army expanded its Angel Island operations by establishing a Detention Camp near the quarry on the east side of the island. The Detention Camp could isolate and care for troops returning from the Philippines with contagious diseases, particularly smallpox. In 1901 the Detention Camp became a Discharge Camp and by 1904 the site was a temporary Depot of Recruits and Casuals. In 1909, the War Department decided to build a permanent Recruit Depot at the East Garrison, shifting the military activity and expansion on the island to that site. Planning began for a major building campaign at the East Garrison of reinforced concrete Mission Revival structures, including new officers' quarters. The older buildings and constricted space available at the former Camp Reynolds made this a secondary post on the island. From 1931 until the base was decommissioned in 1946, this quarters housed non-commissioned officers.¹⁰

⁸Inspection Report to Quartermaster General (30 June 1879); Surgeon General's Office, (1875), 498.

⁹Camp Reynolds site plan, July 1907, NARA, Cartographic, RG 92, Blueprint File, Angel Island, California, sheet 3. On nineteenth-century army housing see Alison K. Hoagland. "Village Constructions: U.S. Army Forts on the Plains, 1848-1890," *Winterthur Portfolio* 34:4 (December 1999): 215-37.

¹⁰John A. Hussey. "Fort McDowell - Report on Application for an Historical Monument," Prepared for War Assets Administration (April 1949), typescript in Angel Island Park files, 27.

II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General statement:

1. Architectural character:

This officer's quarters is an excellent example of army housing from the 1870s. Although updated over the years, the original form and many historic features are apparent.

2. Condition of fabric:

Poor. This officer's quarters has been vandalized and there is pervasive interior water damage to the walls, floors and ceilings. Currently the structure is boarded up to prevent further damage.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 22 feet, 7 inches by 49 feet, 9 ½ inches

2. Foundations: Originally supported by wood piles, this structure was underpinned with brick piers in 1883, and later with concrete piers. The space between masonry piers is filled with horizontal wood weatherboards. The foundation is slightly higher on the northwest side of the structure because of a sloping site. A hinged door is cut into the siding at the northwest corner of the foundation to provide access to space under the structure.

3. Walls: Exterior walls are sheathed with five-inch-wide wood weatherboards all currently painted white. Army records refer to this exterior wall material as cove rustic siding.

4. Structural system: Exposed portions of the framing system indicate a light wood frame with a common rafter roof. Historic plans indicate the use of two by six inch joists and rafters.¹¹

5. Porches, stoops: An one-story porch with a shallow hipped roof is located across the north elevation. The flat rectangular columns and porch balustrade visible in historic photographs have been removed; the porch roof is currently supported by thin wood posts. A porch has been removed from the west side of the rear ell. In addition all exterior stairs have been removed - historic photographs indicate that the front stairs extended from the east end of the porch.

¹¹Historical Record of Buildings, NARA, RG 77, Entry 393, Box 142, Folder 4. Includes an existing condition plan from c. 1929.

6. Chimneys: There is one extant internal brick chimney in the center of the main section of the structure. A second chimney on the east side of the kitchen ell has been removed on the exterior.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: This structure has four exterior doorways, one in the east bay of the front elevation, one in the rear elevation of the main section of the house, and two in the west side of the kitchen ell. The rear and ell doorways provided access to the ell side porch from the dining room, pantry and kitchen. The front door is topped by a two light transom and has a small decorative cornice and applied moldings around the doorframe while the other three have plain, flat door frames. A later door with five horizontal recessed panels in at the rear opening. The ell doorway from the kitchen has a recessed panel wood door with two tall vertical rectangles over two smaller ones. The ell doorway from the pantry was glazed with two rectangular panels in the bottom half.
 - b. Windows: All of the first floor windows in the main section of the structure have matching decorative cornices and applied moldings. The typical window in these openings is an one over one double hung sash with a small decorative ogee curve at the bottom corners of the upper sash. The kitchen ell windows are six over six double hung sash in plain flat frames. All of the windows on the rear elevation have plain frames, including a small, asymmetrically placed six over six window for the attic floor bathroom.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The main roof form is a front gable, echoed by a smaller parallel gable roof for the kitchen ell. The roof is covered with wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The main section and ell both have shallow box cornice. There are no gutters.
- C. Description of Interior:
 1. Floor plans: See measured drawings HABS No. CA-1841-C for complete plans of this Officer's Quarters. The first and attic, or second floor plans are rectangular with a kitchen ell extending across two-thirds of the rear elevation at the first

floor. There is no basement or attic space. The current arrangement of the first floor is a side entrance stair hall along the exterior east wall, with a parlor to the side and dining room behind. The kitchen ell, consisting of a pantry then kitchen, is accessed through the rear of the dining room. On the attic floor the stair hall is the center of the east bay of the structure. A small room, called a "sewing room" in a c. 1929 plan, is located to the front of the stair hall and a bathroom behind. A front and back bedroom occupy the center and west bay of this three bay structure.

2. Stairways: There is one stair located along the east wall, curving inward toward the attic floor stair hall. The graceful curve at the top of the stair is visible upon entering the stair hall from the front door. All former stair railings are now missing.
3. Flooring: This house has tongue and groove wood flooring generally narrower in the downstairs hall, parlor, and dining room than the upstairs hall, bathroom and bedrooms. All of the floorboards are laid front to back except in the dining room where they are oriented side to side. Battleship gray sheet linoleum was installed over the wood floor in the kitchen and pantry.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: There are plaster on lath walls and ceilings throughout Building No. 46. The kitchen has vertical beaded wood wainscotting. There is evidence of wallpaper in the entrance hall, parlor and dining room. The entrance hall, parlor, dining room and bedrooms also have wood picture moldings, largely plain except for a floral motif in the dining room. On the attic floor the rooms each have ceilings sloped along the eave side of the roof. The baseboards throughout the structure are wide with ogee cap molding. The parlor and entrance hall also have ogee toe molding while the dining room has quarter round toe molding, probably a later replacement. The baseboards in the attic floor spaces do not have any toe molding.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The typical interior door in this structure is a recessed panel wood door with two tall vertical rectangles over two

smaller ones. Early-twentieth-century doors with five recessed horizontal panels are located in the entrance hall openings leading to the parlor and dining room and on the front bedroom closet. The typical interior door molding throughout these quarters is a thick bead molding.

- b. Windows: The typical interior window molding is a thick bead molding. Several attic floor windows have an crude shelf with roller shade hardware added to the top of molding, probably during the early twentieth century.

6. Decorative features and trim:

The dining room, parlor, and bedrooms each have the remains of fireplaces showing a variety of alterations and decorative features. All of the mantels have been removed. In the dining and parlor are found remnants of decorative hearth tiles, similar to those in Building No. 48-49. These square red, black and gold tiles probably date from the 1870s and are arranged in a diamond and square pattern. The fireplace in the back bedroom has been bricked closed and does not retain any decorative features. The front bedroom has a round arch metal insert characteristic of the late nineteenth century.

7. Hardware: Damage to the windows and doors has removed most of the historic hardware. Some of the later five-panel doors have original plain metal knobs and escutcheons. The connecting door between the parlor and dining room has a box lock that may be original.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating, ventilation: Heat was provided by coal-burning fireplaces or stoves. There is no evidence of an updated central heating system.

- b. Lighting: Evidence of an early twentieth century knob-and-tube wiring system is still extant, including wires for a ceiling fixture in the dining room. Army records show that electric light fixtures were installed in 1918.¹²

¹²Historical Record of Buildings, Building No. 46.

c. Plumbing: The bathroom on the attic floor probably dates to 1885 renovations. A cast-iron claw-foot tub and the base of a porcelain toilet with a wall mounted tank (ghost visible in former location) is extant.

A coal-burning hot water heater was installed in the kitchen during 1931. Prior to that time hot water was obtained from a boiler attached to the cooking range.¹³ The kitchen also has early-twentieth-century beaded wood cabinets and a wall-mounted porcelain-coated iron sink with a built-in drainboard.

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design:

Domestic functions and military hierarchy, in addition to the topography, shaped this structure's site. Building No. 46 is located along a row of officers' quarters that historically faced a row of barracks across the sloping parade grounds at Camp Reynolds. Currently a stone retaining wall at the rear of the structure dating to the late nineteenth century survives, as well as a series of concrete walks dating to the early twentieth century.

2. Outbuildings:

Building No. 46 still has a small one-story front gable outbuilding at the rear of the site. Although altered for use as a storage shed, this was probably originally the detached servants' quarters discussed in historic records. Officers' wives could hire civilian servants - often Chinese at Angel Island - or soldiers could serve as domestic help, even after this practice was outlawed in 1870.¹⁴

III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: See notes for references to architectural drawings and sketches.

B. Early Views: See notes for references to early photographic views.

C. Bibliography:

See notes for a listing of relevant archival materials from Record Groups 92, 77, and 112 at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC and College Park, Maryland.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Coffman, 305-306.

- Anderson, Lieut-Colonel Thomas M. "Army Posts, Barracks and Quarters," *Journal of the Military Service Institution of the United States* 2:8 (1882): 421-447.
- Coffman, Edward M. *The Old Army: A Portrait of the American Army in Peacetime, 1784-1898*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Hoagland, Alison K. "Village Constructions: U.S. Army Forts on the Plains, 1848-1890," *Winterthur Portfolio* 34:4 (Winter 1999): 215-237.
- Soennichsen, John *Miwoks to Missiles: A History of Angel Island*. Tiburon, CA: Angel Island Association, 2001.
- Surgeon General's Office. *Circular No. 8 - A Report on the Hygiene of the U.S. Army, Descriptions of Military Posts*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1875.
- Wood, Robert M. "Preliminary Recommendation for the Interior Restoration of the Buildings Remaining on West Garrison," typescript, Angel Island State Park files.

IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Camp Reynolds was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS, Paul Dolinsky, Chief) (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, HABS/HAER/HALS Division, E. Blaine Cliver, Chief) during summer and fall 2002. The project was sponsored by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Rusty Areias, Director; and by Angel Island State Park, Nick Franco, Superintendent. Field recording and measured drawings were completed by Mark Schara, HABS Architect and Project Supervisor; HABS Architect Kathy Falwell; and Architects Paul Davidson (Pratt Institute) and Jonathan Eggert (University of Michigan). HABS Historian Lisa Pfueller Davidson served as project historian. HABS Photographer James Rosenthal completed large format photographs during fall 2002. Assistance was provided by the Staff of Angel Island State Park and Marin District Historian Marianne Hurley. See related documentation, HABS No. CA-2721, Fort McDowell, for information about the East Garrison portion of the island.

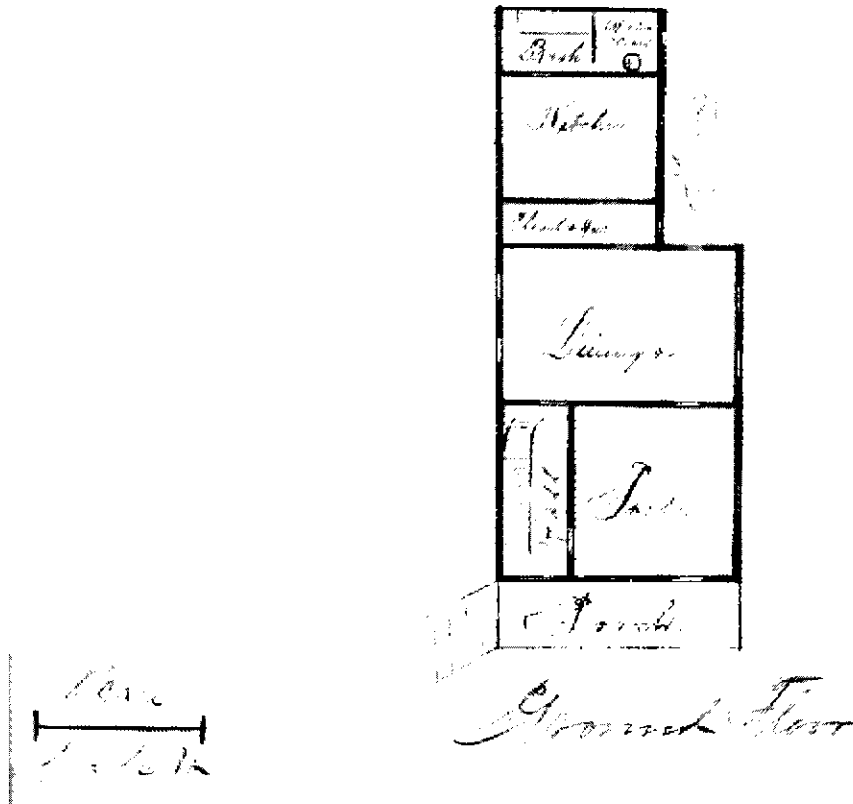


Figure 1: First Floor Plan, 1893, Officer's Quarters
Source: Enclosure to Special Sanitary Report, (30 June 1893),
National Archives, RG 112 - Office of the Surgeon General, Entry 41, Box 2